

Fig. 1. Corrected forest plot of the risk ratio of 30-day, or intensive care unit, or in-hospital mortality in the studies included in the meta-analysis of Maitra *et al.*¹ Numbers in parentheses correspond to current article references. CMV = conventional mechanical ventilation (corresponding to standard treatment); HFO = high-frequency oscillation (corresponding to experimental treatment); M-H = Mantel-Haenszel.

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In Reply:

We have read the letter by Mentzelopoulos *et al.* regarding the possible inaccuracy in a few outcomes of our analysis.¹ We sincerely apologize for the possible duplication of a few patients from inclusion of a previous study.² Although this error is purely unintentional, we are sorry to say that we were unable to find a statement regarding overlapping of the patients in the Methods section of the later study.³ However, a reanalysis of our primary outcome did not change the primary finding of our meta-analysis (fig. 1). Mentzelopoulos *et al.* correctly reported that I^2 , which is the heterogeneity value, and CI, are different. We have already used a random effect model in all our analysis even if the I^2 value is low due to possible clinical heterogeneity in the included studies. The 95% CI is used to estimate the precision of the odds ratio.⁴ If a 95% CI for the odds ratio does not include 1 (the null value), then the odd ratios are said to be statistically significantly different. We also accept the possibility of biases from inclusion of the randomized controlled trial by Demory *et al.*⁵ However, reanalyzing in-hospital/30-day/intensive care unit

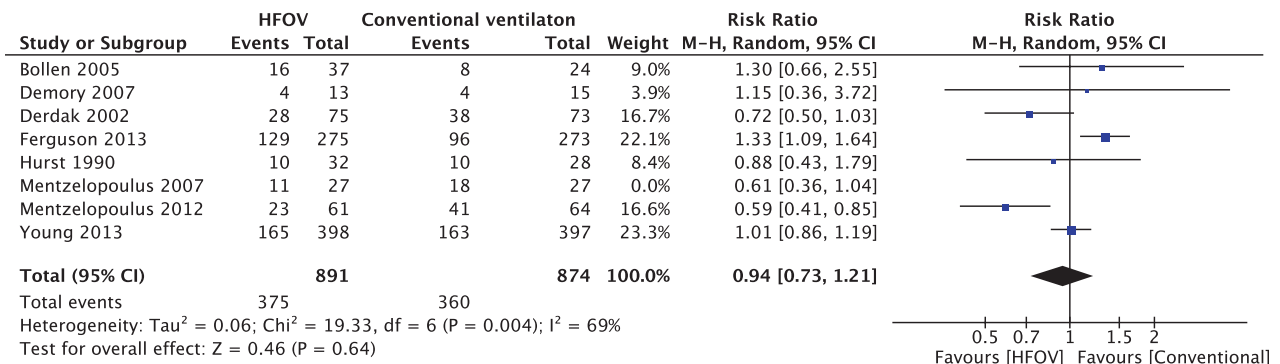


Fig. 1. Corrected forest plot for in-hospital/intensive care unit/30-day mortality. HFOV = high-frequency oscillatory ventilation; M-H = Mantel-Haenszel.

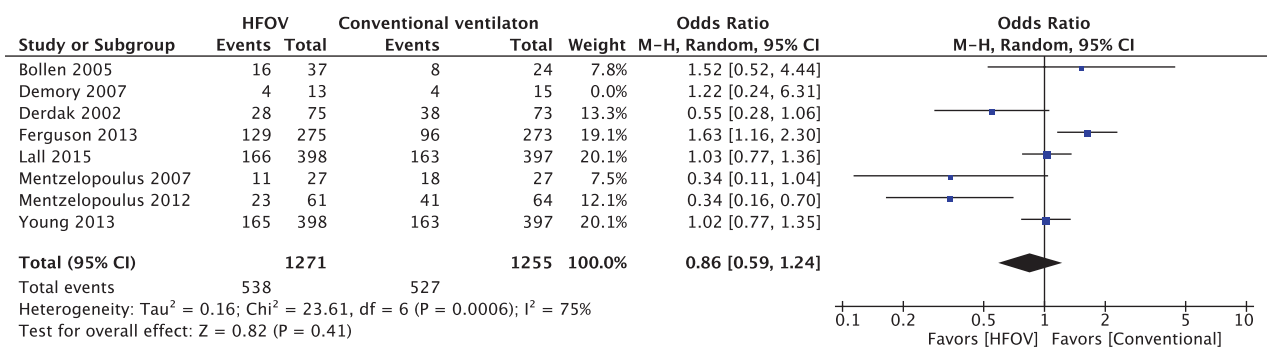


Fig. 2. Forest plot of in-hospital/intensive care unit/30-day mortality (excluding the study by Demory *et al.*⁵). HFOV = high-frequency oscillatory ventilation; M-H = Mantel-Haenszel.

mortality excluding Demory *et al.*'s trial did not change our primary findings (fig. 2). Kindly refer to figure 3 of the study by Young *et al.*,⁶ which clearly mentions that the number of survivors at day 30 was 233 in the high-frequency oscillatory ventilation group. After exclusion of the preliminary findings of Mentzelopoulos *et al.*,² duration of mechanical ventilation and incidence of barotrauma remain unchanged from our primary findings.

Competing Interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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